REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that a Revocation of Power of Attorney, Substitute Power of Attorney, and Change in Correspondence Address was filed in the above-identified application on July 11, 2002. A Notice mailed on July 29, 2002 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office indicates that correspondence would now be directed to the firm of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP. It is respectfully submitted that the correspondence address should remain the same. It is requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ensure that their records are updated to show this correct correspondence information.

Also, attached herewith is a Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) to Revive an Unintentionally Abandoned Application. It is respectfully submitted that the attached Petition should be unnecessary. As set forth in the Petition, a first Office Action was mailed on October 4, 2001. The Office Action was not received by the former attorneys in the law firm of Darby & Darby, PC, until May 6, 2002. Meanwhile, a Notice of Abandonment was allegedly mailed but has not been received. It had been requested that a new statutory period for

responding to the first Office Action be set. This Petition of August 1, 2002 has not yet been answered.

On August 13, 2002, a Letter Requesting that the Response Period Be Restarted was also filed. This Letter was followed up with a Status Inquiry on October 7, 2002, as well as numerous phone calls to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. To date, this Petition issue has not yet been resolved. A separate Petition for Revival of an Application for Patent Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b) is being filed concurrently herewith. **It is believed that this patent application has inadvertently been abandoned by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office due to their failure to act on any of the previously submitted documents. Fees under 37 CFR 1.17(m) should not be necessary. However, in order to ensure that the pendency of the application is maintained, the required fee of $650.00 is authorized to be charged to deposit account No. 02-2448, if necessary.**

In view of the previously filed Petition and the presently filed Petition, it is requested that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office reinstate this application.

A PTO-948 Form, Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, was included with the October 4, 2001 Office Action. This Notice indicates that a Petition under 37 CFR 1.184(a) for Figs. 6 and 7 is required. Accordingly, attached herewith is such a Petition. It is respectfully requested that any objections to the drawings now be

reconsidered and withdrawn. Approval of the drawings by both the Examiner and Official Draftsperson are respectfully requested.

A PTO 892 Form, Notice of References Cited by the Examiner, was not returned with the October 4, 2001 Office Action. It is noted, however, that U.S. Patent 5,828,380 is discussed on page 2 of the instant specification. It is believed that this document has been considered by the Examiner. However, to ensure that this document is considered, an Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently herewith. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached PTO-1449 Form, indicating his consideration of this patent.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the allegedly known prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention provides certain benefits over the prior art discussed in the specification. A better rendering can be obtained. In independent claim 1 of the present application, z-axis parameters are generated. The effect function renders the z-axis parameters response to a relation limit varied with directions of said directional relation. In independent claim 4, the effect function renders the z-axis parameters responsive to a mapping table defining offset values of said z-axis parameters. In independent claim 7, the effect function renders the z-axis parameters responsive to a relation limit varied with directions of said directional relation, a contour curve, and a mapping table defining offset values of said z-axis parameters. Such features are not found in the prior art discussed in the instant application. The prior art

is restricted by the inflexibility of the relation of the limit D_{max} in that the portion to be 3-D mapped can only be displayed in a symmetrical pattern. Improved 3-D modeling of object included pyramids and cones, for example, is obtained with the present invention. The conventional method cannot realize such asymmetrical visual effects as are obtained with the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art discussed in the specification would neither suggest nor render obvious the independent claims or dependent claims of the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 102(b) rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Because of the various issues regarding the mailing of the Office Action, it is believed that no extensions of time are necessary. However, if this understanding is in error, please consider this as a petition for the necessary extension of time and charge the appropriate small entity fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/20/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A paragraph has been added before the heading beginning on page 1, line 6.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29, has been amended as follows:

--According to the above object, the present invention provides a method of rendering a 2-D graphic object having a plurality of pixels to a 3-D graphic object. At first, a directional relation corresponding to the pixels is determined to define relationships between the pixels and edges of the 2-D graphic object. Then, z-axis parameters corresponding to the pixels are generated in response to the directional relation with an effect function, wherein the effect function renders the z-axis parameters responsive to a relation limit varied with directions of the [directinoal] directional relation or a mapping table defining offset values of the z-axis parameters, or both. Finally, the 3-D graphic object is rendered in response to the 2-D graphic object and the z-axis parameters.--

A paragraph has been added after the paragraph ending on page 5, line 8.

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11, has been amended as follows:

--The aforementioned objects, features and advantages of this invention will become apparent by referring to the following detailed description of preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings, which are given by way of illustration only,

and thus are not limitative of the present invention, and wherein:--

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of rendering a 2-D graphic object, having a plurality of pixels, to a 3-D graphic object, comprising the following steps of:

determining a directional relation corresponding to said pixels, wherein said directional relation defines relations between said pixels and edges of said 2-D graphic object,

generating z-axis parameters corresponding to said pixels in response to said directional relation with an effect function, [wherein] said effect function renders said z-axis parameters responsive to a relation limit varied with directions of said directional relation; and

rendering said 3-D graphic object in response to said 2-D graphic object and said z-axis parameters.

4. (Amended) A method of rendering a 2-D graphic object, having a plurality of pixels, to a 3-D graphic object, comprising the following steps of:

determining a directional relation corresponding to said pixels, wherein said directional relation defines relations between said pixels and edges of said 2-D graphic object;

generating z-axis parameters corresponding to said pixels in response to said directional relation with an effect function, [wherein] said effect function renders said z-axis parameters responsive to a mapping table defining offset values of said z-axis parameters; and

rendering said 3-D graphic object in response to said 2-D graphic object and said z-axis parameters.

7. (Amended) A method of rendering a 2-D graphic object, having a plurality of pixels, to a 3-D graphic object, comprising the following steps of:

determining a directional relation corresponding to said pixels, wherein said directional relation defines relations between said pixels and edges of said 2-D graphic object;

generating z-axis parameters corresponding to said pixels in response to said directional relation with an effect function, [wherein] said effect function renders said z-axis parameters responsive to a relation limit varied with directions of said directional relation, a contour curve, and a mapping table defining offset values of said z-axis parameters; and

rendering said 3-D graphic objection in response to said 2-D graphic objection and said z-axis parameters.